

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-24 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended and Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 12 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 6 and has amended independent Claims 3 and 13 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 3, 12, and 13, as well as Claims 2, 4-11, and 14-24, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 10-16 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Senga et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,520,895).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 3, 12, and 13 to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

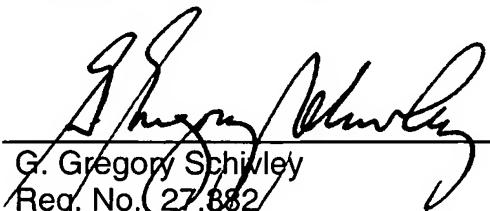
ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 6-9, and 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 12 to include the limitations of Claim 6 and has amended Claims 3 and 13 to include the limitations of Claim 7. Therefore, Claims 1, 3, 12, and 13, as well as Claims 2, 4-11, and 14-24, respectively dependent therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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